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AUTHORITY
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™
THE RHINO™ DOESN'T WANT TO KILL SPIDER-MAN®. . .
. . .BUT BEFORE THEY'RE THROUGH, THE WALL-CRAWLER WILL WISH HE HAD!
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

The HORNS of a DILEMMA!

J.M. DeMATTEIS writer * SAL BUSCEMA artist * ROSEN & ELIOPOULOS letterers BOB SHAREN colorist * DANNY FINGEROTH editor * TOM DeFALCO chief

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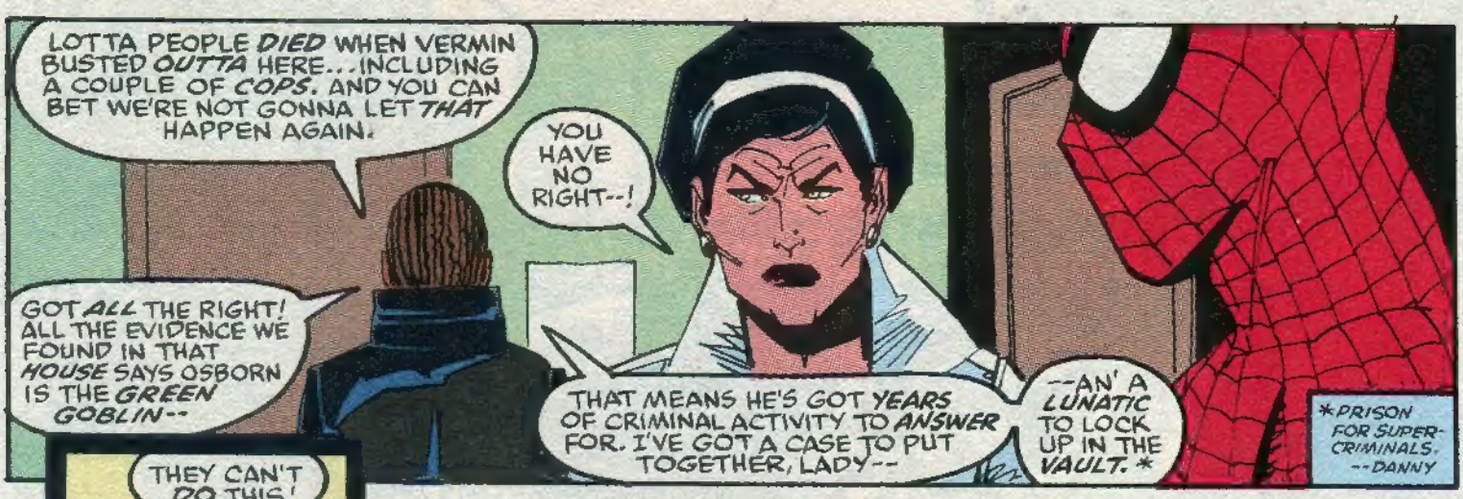
SUCH AN EVIL, SOULLESS FACE. AND THAT GRIN--
I DON'T SEE THE HUMOR IN ANY OF THIS, DO YOU, MR. OSBORN?
CALL ME HARRY. PLEASE.
AFTER ALL, DR. KAFKA, IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLUMB THE DEPTHS OF MY PSYCHE, WE MIGHT AS WELL BE ON FAMILIAR TERMS.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.
DO I SEE ANY HUMOR IN THIS?
TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, DOCTOR--
--I THINK IT'S A SCREAM.
Fog's thick t'night.

I UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF MASKS. THE FREEDOM.
SLIP BEHIND A FALSE FACE--HIDE OUR WEAKNESSES FROM THE WORLD--
--AND WE CAN BECOME EVERYTHING WE'RE NOT.
EVERYTHING OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS, WIVES AND FRIENDS, TOLD US WE NEVER COULD BE.
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH MASKS, HARRY.
IT GETS DARK IN HERE, A LITTLE HARD TO BREATHE. A LITTLE SCARY.
AND VERY ALONE.
YOU FEEL VERY ALONE, HARRY--
--DON'T--
--YOU?

IT'S MINE!
IT'S MINE!
GIVE IT TO ME!!!
SSRAAKKK
GIVE
IT
TO
TUDTUDTUDTUDTUD
ME!!
RAKKKKK
Good.
I like the Fog.

KAFKA, YOU THIEF...YOU WITCH--GIVE ME THAT MASK OR I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!
DO YOU HEAR ME?
I'LL KILL YOU!
NO... NO--GET OUT!
YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!
LOOKS T'ME LIKE IT'S RUINED ALREADY!
LET GO OF ME! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
SURE WE DO.
WE'RE SAVIN' YOUR LIFE.
I'LL KILL YOU!!!
DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW HE'D REACT LIKE THAT? THAT'S JUST THE REACTION I WANTED!
LISTEN, LADY--WE'RE JUST TRYIN' T'PROTECT YOU. NO NEED TO GET ALL--
NO, YOU LISTEN! THERE IS NO WAY HE CAN GET THROUGH THAT REINFORCED GLASS! NOW LET ME GET BACK IN THERE BEFORE--
EASY DOES IT, DOC--
--THEY'RE JUST DOING THEIR JOB.
TRUTH IS, WE DON'T KNOW THE LIMITS OF HARRY'S POWER. HE MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH--!
HE'S NEVER KILLED BEFORE--BUT I'D HATE TO SEE MY FAVORITE THERAPIST BECOME THE FIRST EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
LOOK, SPIDER-MAN--YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CONVINCED THE POLICE TO BRING OSBORN HERE TO NYU--! HOW AM I GOING TO HELP HIM... GET TO THE ROOTS OF HIS MADNESS--IF I'VE GOT ARMED GUARDS JUMPING EVERY TIME HE SO MUCH AS SAYS "BOO"?
YOU'RE NOT. IN FACT WE'RE MOVING OSBORN OUT OF HERE. AS OF THIS MOMENT, YOU ARE OFF THIS CASE.
WHAT?
WHY?!
MEDICAL JOURNALS HAVE MADE A BIG DEAL ABOUT YOUR PROGRESS ON THAT VERMIN THING--BUT AS FAR AS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNED, ALL YOU DID WAS STICK YOUR FACE WHERE IT DIDN'T BELONG.


LOTTA PEOPLE *DIED* WHEN VERMIN BUSTED *OUTTA* HERE...INCLUDING A COUPLE OF *COPS*. AND YOU CAN BET WE'RE NOT GONNA LET *THAT* HAPPEN AGAIN.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT--!
GOT *ALL* THE RIGHT! ALL THE EVIDENCE WE FOUND IN THAT *HOUSE* SAYS OSBORN IS THE *GREEN GOBLIN*--
THAT MEANS HE'S GOT *YEARS* OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TO *ANSWER* FOR. I'VE GOT A CASE TO PUT TOGETHER, LADY--
--AN' A *LUNATIC* TO LOCK UP IN THE *VAULT.* *
*PRISON FOR SUPER-CRIMINALS. --DANNY

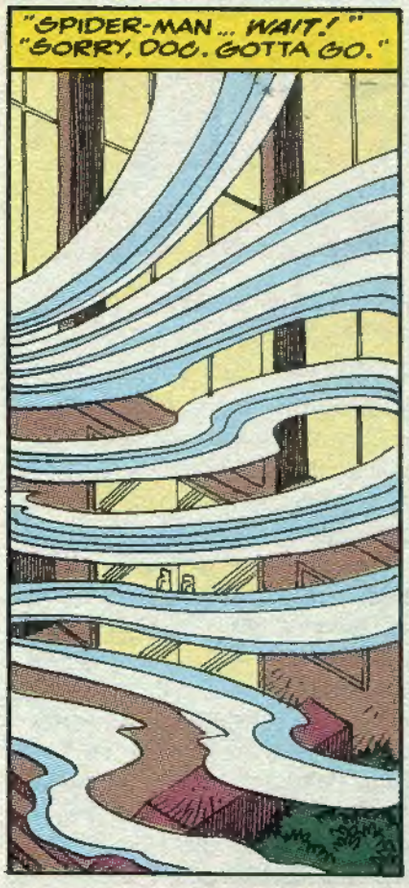
THEY CAN'T *DO* THIS!
HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE IN PRISON--HE NEEDS *HELP!*
YOUR STAKE IN THIS SEEMS EXTREMELY *PERSONAL*. WHY ARE YOU--

PETER.

"PETER, PETER... PUMPKIN EATER."

I *LOVE* A GOOD NURSERY RHYME--
--DON'T YOU?

Means I can hide away. Keep outta *trouble.*


"SPIDER-MAN... WAIT!"
"SORRY, DOC. GOTTA GO."

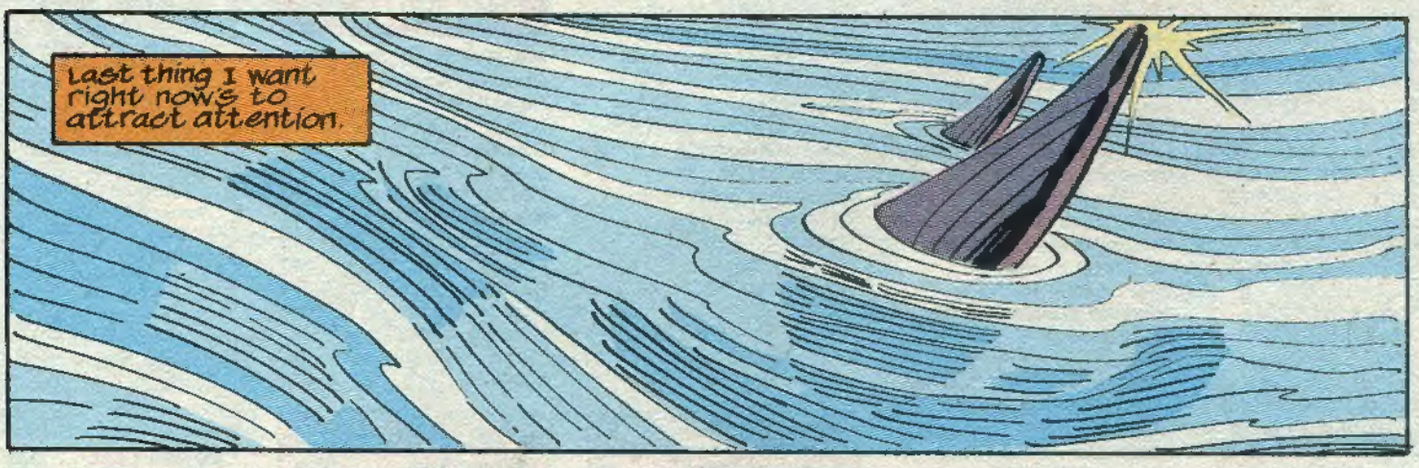
"I WANT TO TALK TO YOU."
"I'M NOT IN MUCH OF A TALKING MOOD."

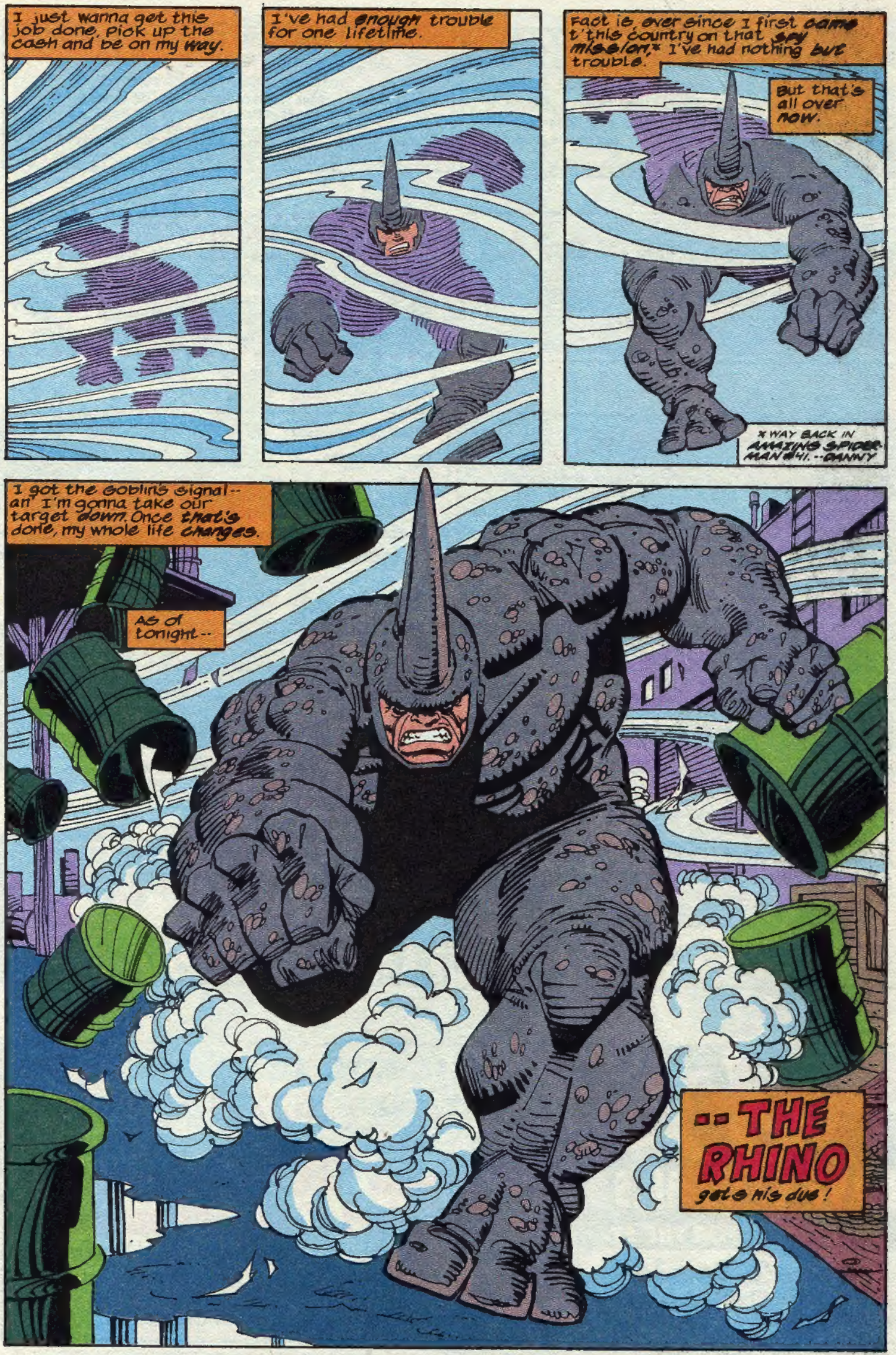
"BUT I CAN SEE HOW UPSET YOU ARE. HOW WORRIED."

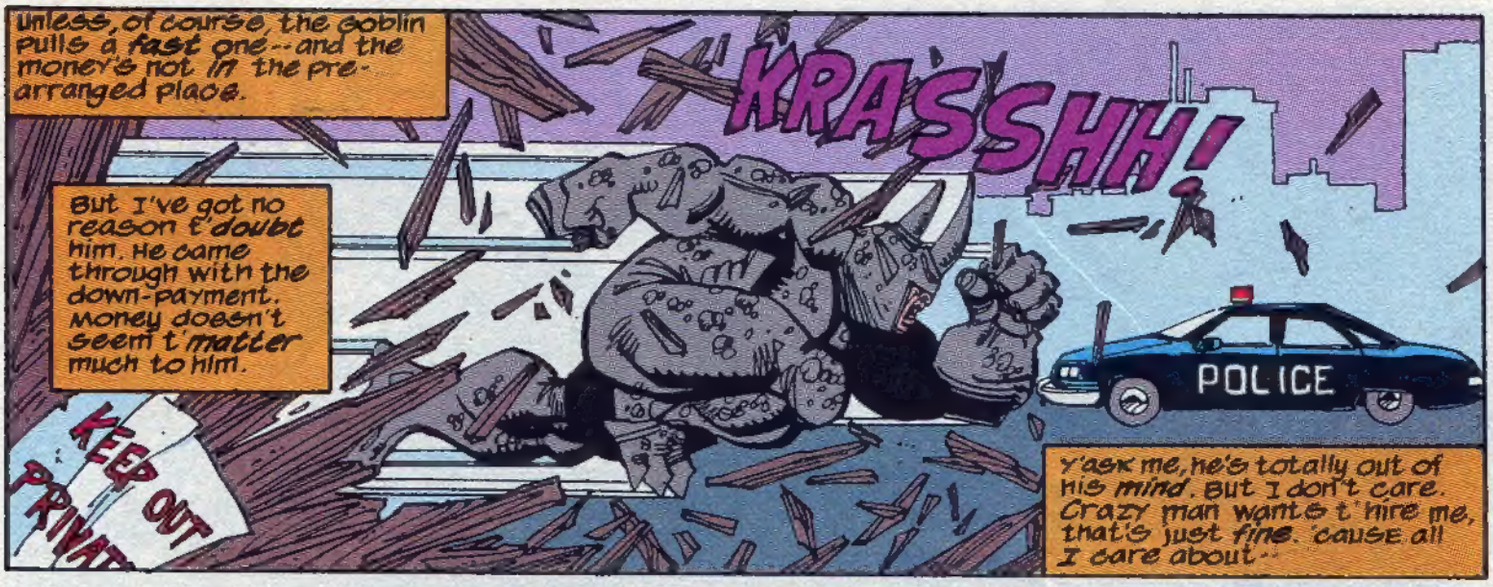
"ME. WORRIED? UH-UH. YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG.

"TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, DOC--

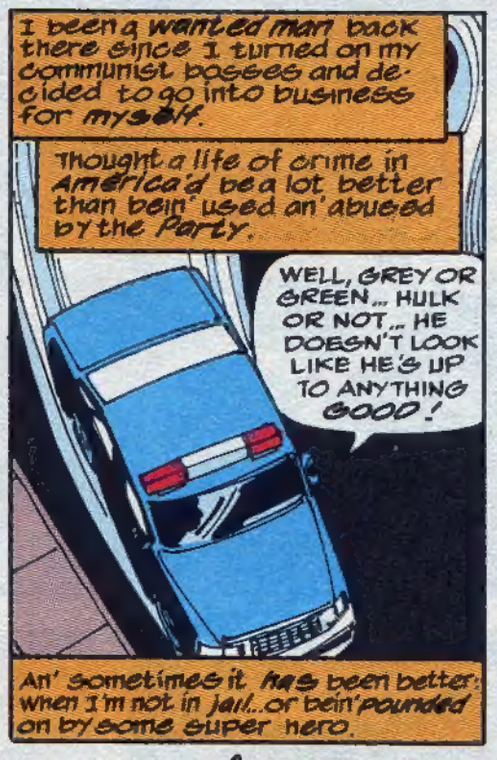
"-- I HAVEN'T GOT A CARE IN THE WORLD."


Last thing I want right now's to attract attention.

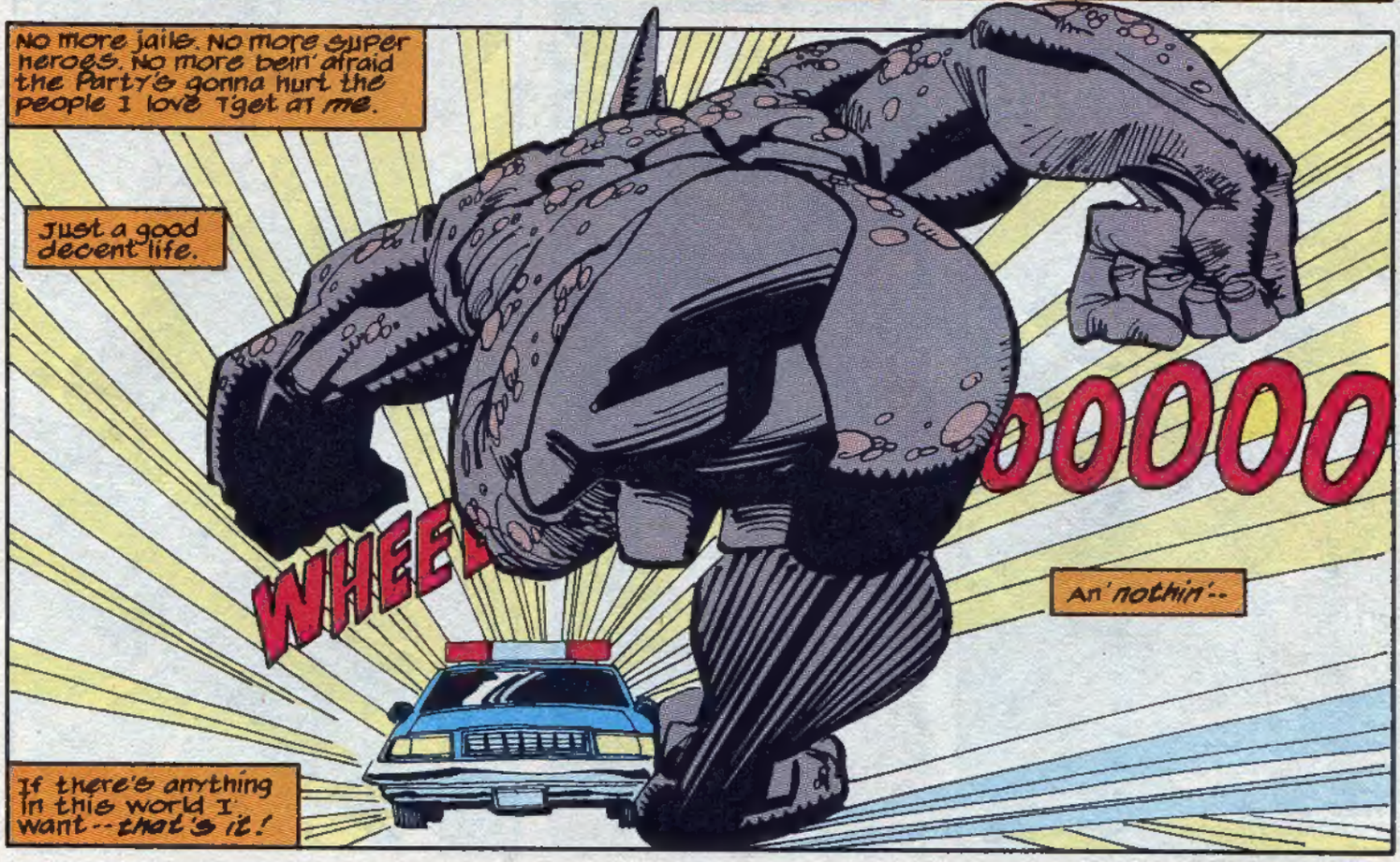

I just wanna get this job done, pick up the cash and be on my way.
I've had enough trouble for one lifetime.
Fact is, ever since I first came t'this country on that spy mission,* I've had nothing but trouble.
But that's all over now.
*WAY BACK IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #41.--DANNY
I got the Goblin's signal-- an' I'm gonna take our target down. Once that's done, my whole life changes.
As of tonight--
--THE RHINO gets his due!

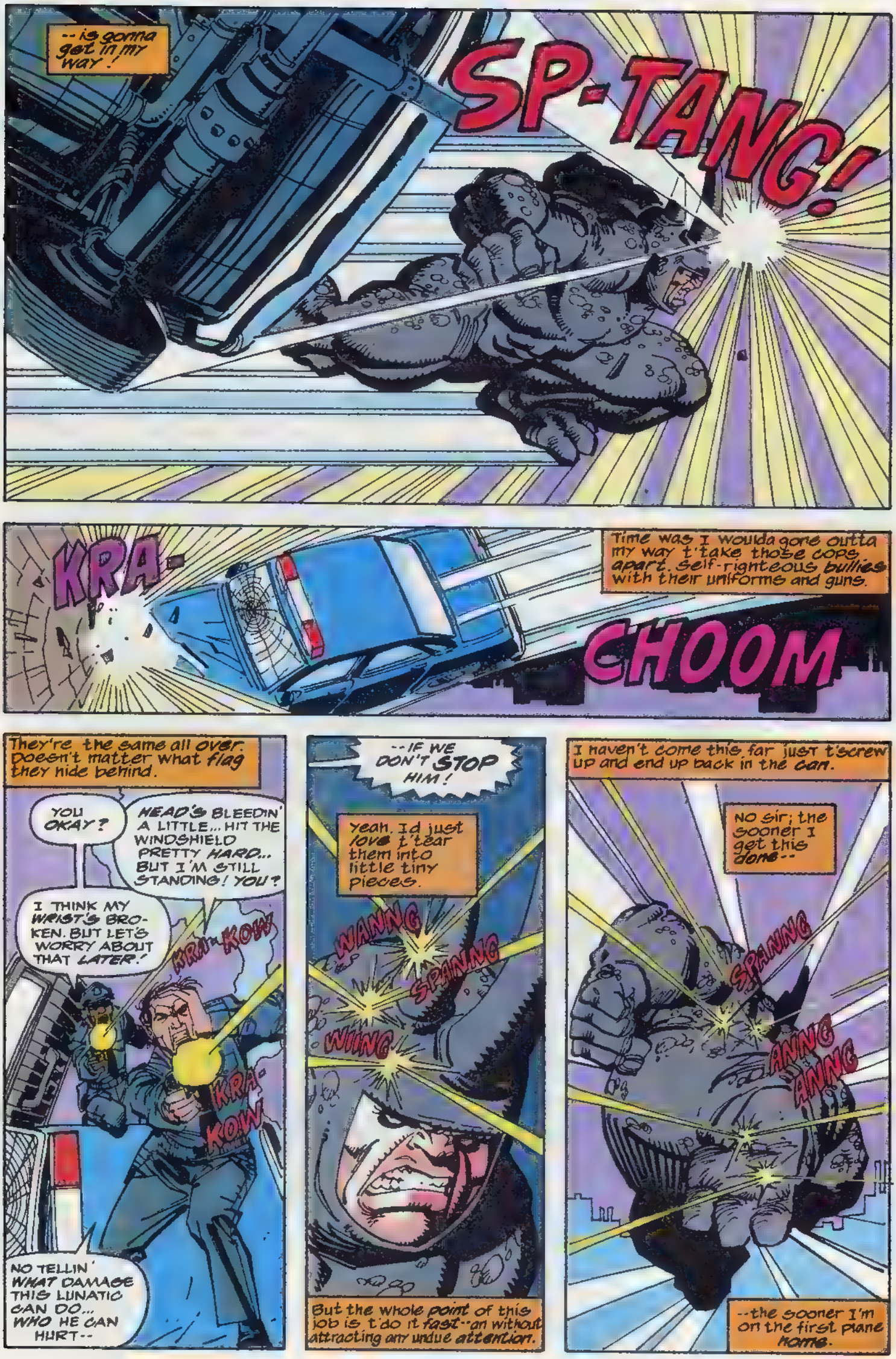

Unless, of course, the Goblin pulls a fast one--and the money's not in the pre-arranged place.
But I've got no reason t'doubt him. He came through with the down-payment. Money doesn't seem t'matter much to him.
KRASSHH!
KEEP OUT
POLICE
Y'ask me, he's totally out of his mind. But I don't care. Crazy man wants t'hire me, that's just fine. 'cause all I care about--

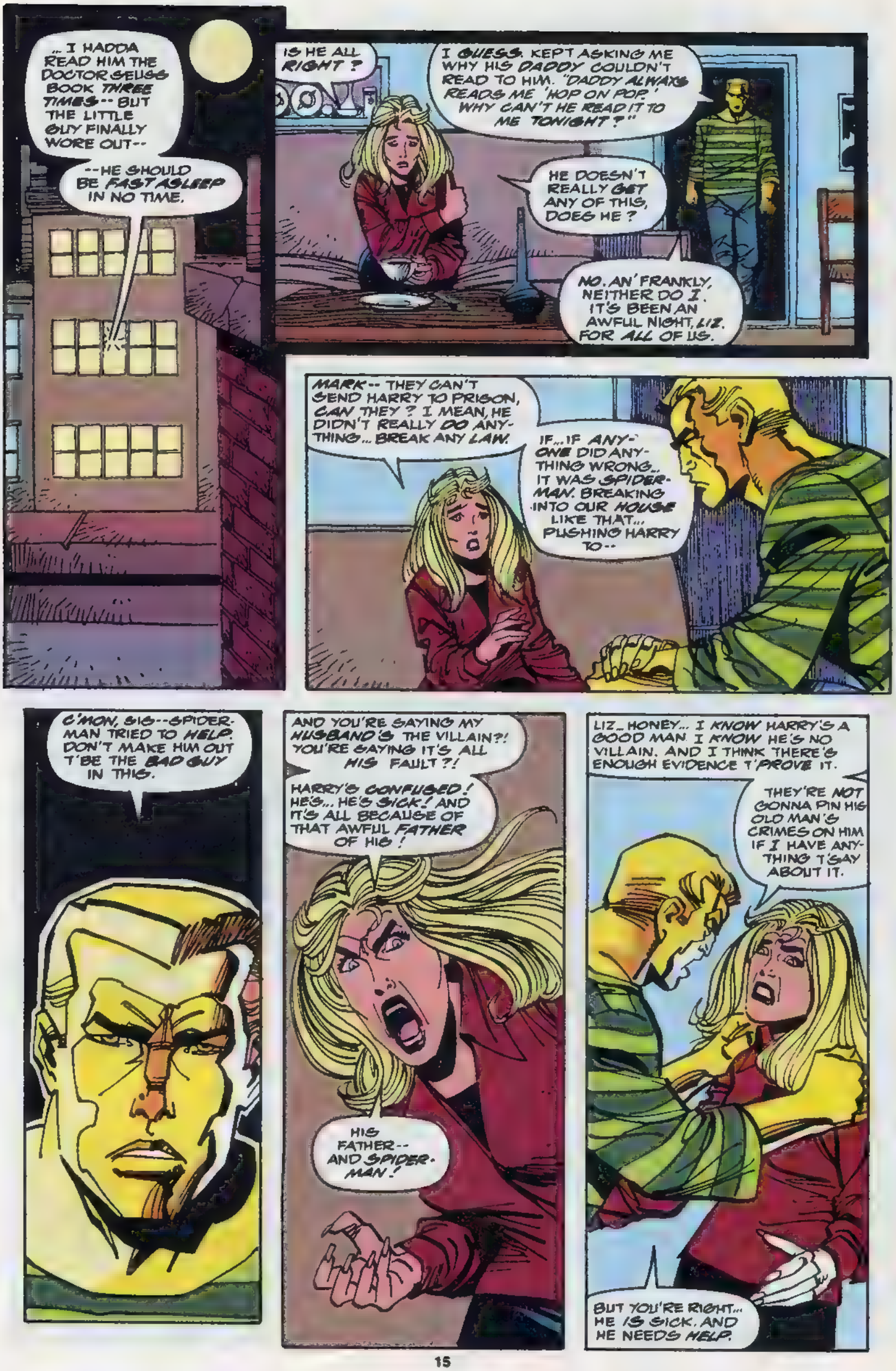
WHO THE DEVIL IS THAT?!
LOOKS LIKE THE HULK!
NO, NO--THE HULK'S GREEN!
I THOUGHT HE WAS GREY!
--is gettin' home.

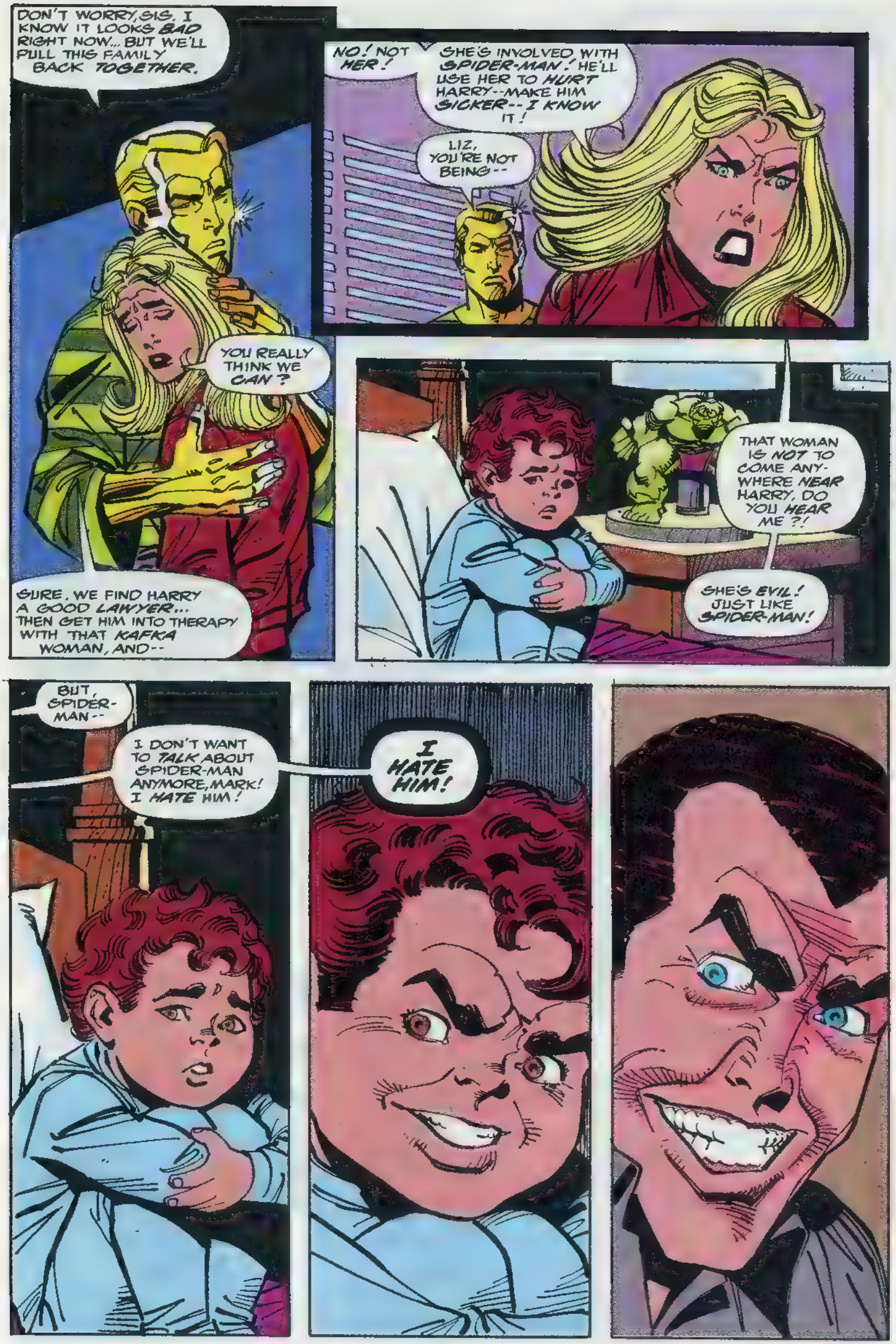

I been a wanted man back there since I turned on my communist bosses and decided to go into business for myself.
Thought a life of crime in America'd be a lot better than bein' used an' abused by the Party.
WELL, GREY OR GREEN... HULK OR NOT... HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S UP TO ANYTHING GOOD!
An' sometimes it has been better: when I'm not in jail...or bein' pounded on by some super hero.

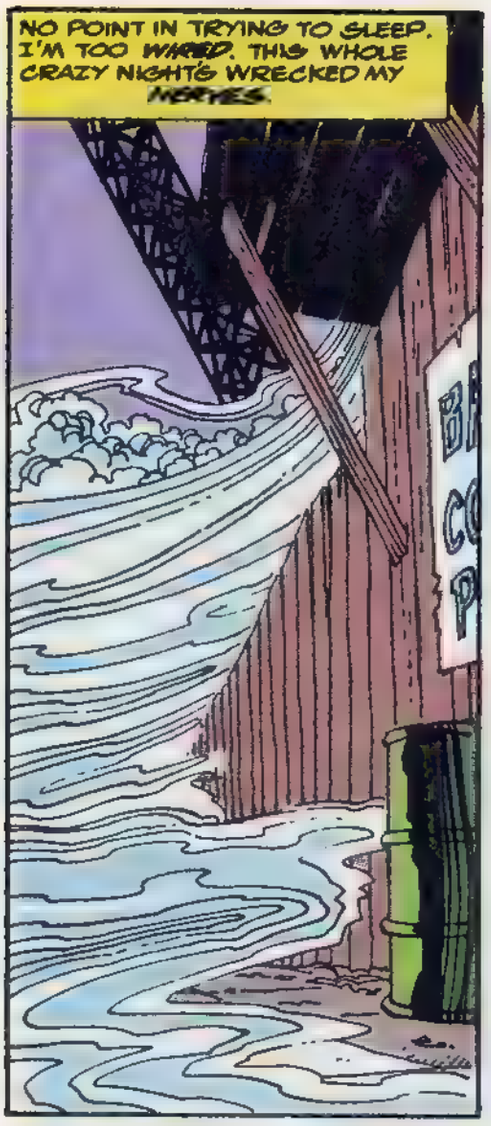
Fact is, I'm tired of it all, An' now that the old government's gone... I can finally go back--an' see my family again.
HIT THE SIREN! LET'S TAKE HIM!
WHEEOOWHEEO
With the money the Goblin's payin' me for this hit--I should be able to bring them all over here... make a good life for 'em.

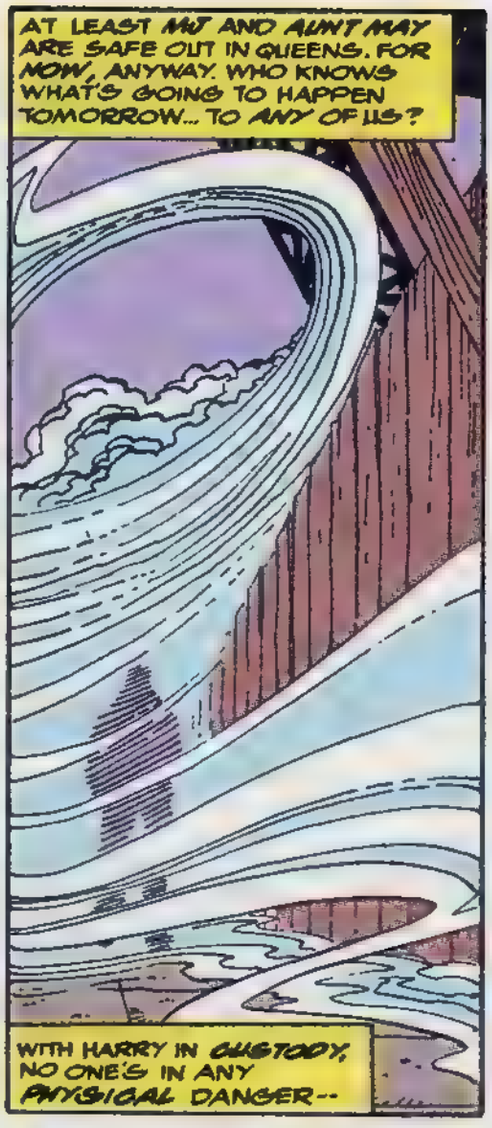

No more jails. No more super heroes. No more bein' afraid the Party's gonna hurt the people I love t'get at me.
Just a good decent life.
WHEEE
OOOOO
An' nothin'--
If there's anything in this world I want--that's it!

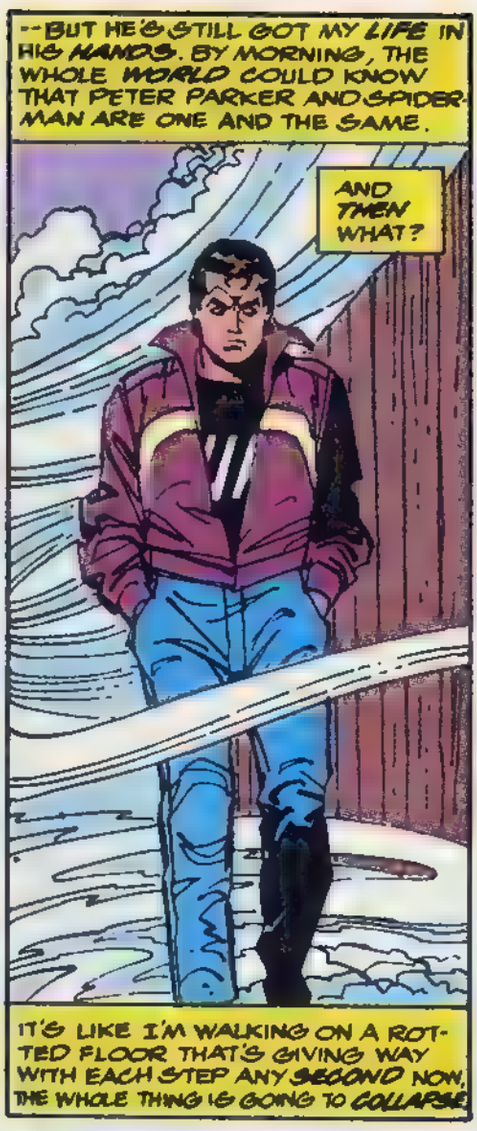

--is gonna get in my way!
SP-TANG!
KRA-
CHOOM
Time was I woulda gone outta my way t'take those cops apart. Self-righteous bullies with their uniforms and guns.
They're the same all over. Doesn't matter what flag they hide behind.
YOU OKAY?
HEAD'S BLEEDIN' A LITTLE... HIT THE WINDSHIELD PRETTY HARD... BUT I'M STILL STANDING! YOU?
I THINK MY WRIST'S BROKEN. BUT LET'S WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.
KRA-KOW
KRA-KOW
NO TELLIN' WHAT DAMAGE THIS LUNATIC CAN DO... WHO HE CAN HURT--
--IF WE DON'T STOP HIM!
Yeah. I'd just love t'tear them into little tiny pieces.
WANG
SPANG
WING
But the whole point of this job is t'do it fast--an without attracting any undue attention.
I haven't come this far just t'screw up and end up back in the can.
NO sir; the sooner I get this done--
SPANG
ANG
ANG
--the sooner I'm on the first plane home.

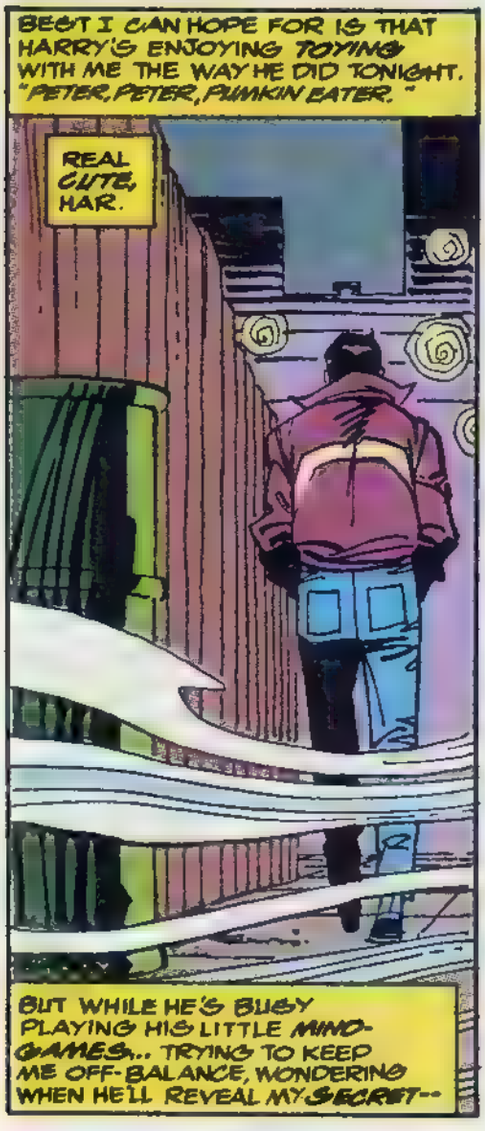

... I HADDA READ HIM THE DOCTOR SEUSS BOOK THREE TIMES-- BUT THE LITTLE GUY FINALLY WORE OUT--
--HE SHOULD BE FAST ASLEEP IN NO TIME.
IS HE ALL RIGHT ?
I GUESS. KEPT ASKING ME WHY HIS DADDY COULDN'T READ TO HIM. "DADDY ALWAYS READS ME 'HOP ON POP.' WHY CAN'T HE READ IT TO ME TONIGHT ?"
HE DOESN'T REALLY GET ANY OF THIS, DOES HE ?
NO. AN' FRANKLY, NEITHER DO I. IT'S BEEN AN AWFUL NIGHT, LIZ. FOR ALL OF US.
MARK-- THEY CAN'T SEND HARRY TO PRISON, CAN THEY ? I MEAN, HE DIDN'T REALLY DO ANY-THING... BREAK ANY LAW.
IF... IF ANY-ONE DID ANY-THING WRONG... IT WAS SPIDER-MAN. BREAKING INTO OUR HOUSE LIKE THAT... PUSHING HARRY TO--
C'MON, SIS--SPIDER-MAN TRIED TO HELP. DON'T MAKE HIM OUT T'BE THE BAD GUY IN THIS.
AND YOU'RE SAYING MY HUSBAND'S THE VILLAIN?! YOU'RE SAYING IT'S ALL HIS FAULT?!
HARRY'S CONFUSED! HE'S... HE'S SICK! AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT AWFUL FATHER OF HIS !
HIS FATHER-- AND SPIDER-MAN !
LIZ... HONEY... I KNOW HARRY'S A GOOD MAN. I KNOW HE'S NO VILLAIN. AND I THINK THERE'S ENOUGH EVIDENCE T'PROVE IT.
THEY'RE NOT GONNA PIN HIS OLD MAN'S CRIMES ON HIM IF I HAVE ANY-THING T'SAY ABOUT IT.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT... HE IS SICK. AND HE NEEDS HELP.


DON'T WORRY, SIS. I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD RIGHT NOW... BUT WE'LL PULL THIS FAMILY BACK TOGETHER.
YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN?
SURE. WE FIND HARRY A GOOD LAWYER... THEN GET HIM INTO THERAPY WITH THAT KAFKA WOMAN, AND--
NO! NOT HER!
SHE'S INVOLVED WITH SPIDER-MAN! HE'LL USE HER TO HURT HARRY--MAKE HIM SICKER--I KNOW IT!
LIZ, YOU'RE NOT BEING--
THAT WOMAN IS NOT TO COME ANY-WHERE NEAR HARRY, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
SHE'S EVIL! JUST LIKE SPIDER-MAN!
BUT, SPIDER-MAN--
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SPIDER-MAN ANYMORE, MARK! I HATE HIM!
I HATE HIM!

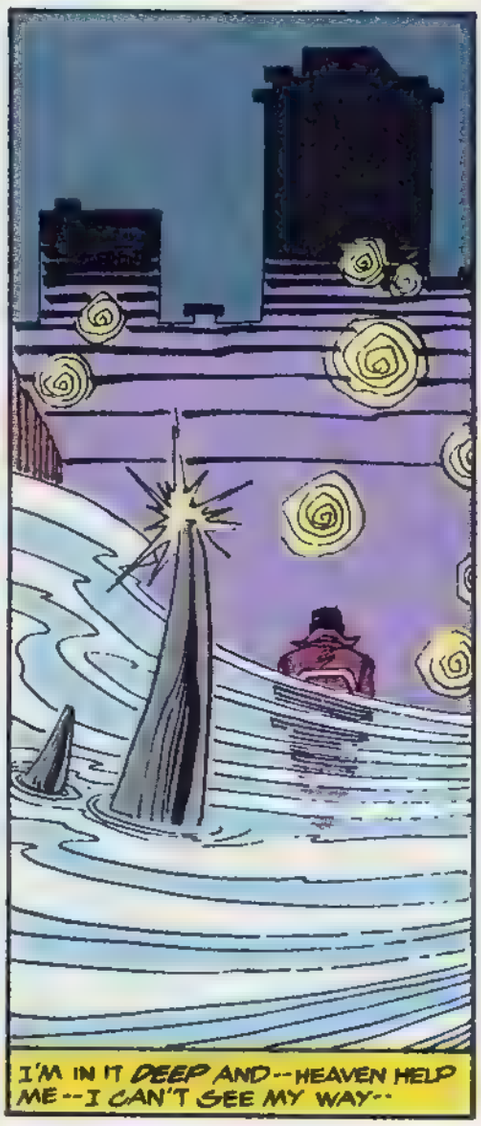

NO POINT IN TRYING TO SLEEP. I'M TOO WIRED. THIS WHOLE CRAZY NIGHT'S WRECKED MY NERVES.

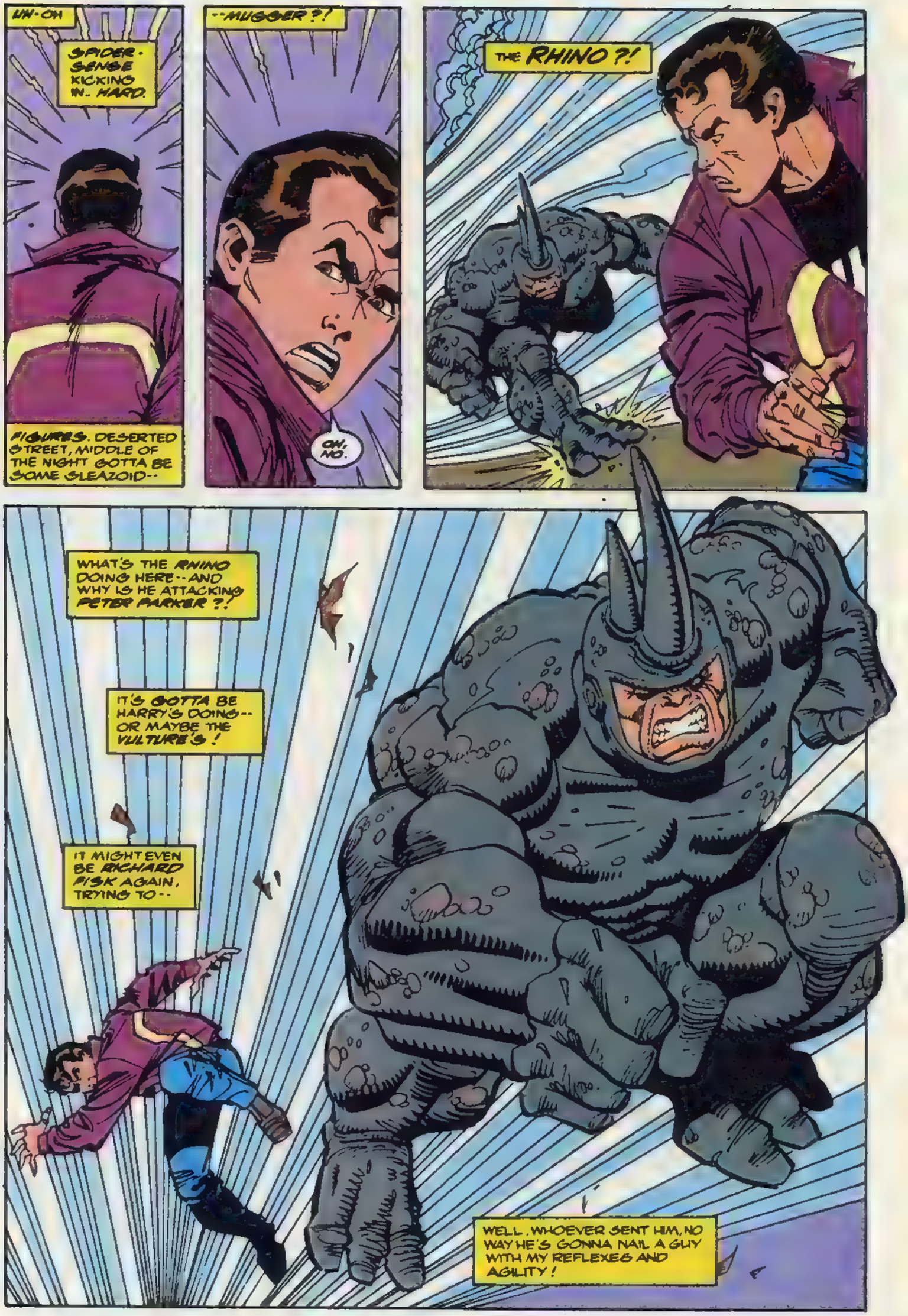

AT LEAST MJ AND AUNT MAY ARE SAFE OUT IN QUEENS. FOR NOW, ANYWAY. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW... TO ANY OF US?
WITH HARRY IN CUSTODY, NO ONE'S IN ANY PHYSICAL DANGER--


--BUT HE'S STILL GOT MY LIFE IN HIS HANDS. BY MORNING, THE WHOLE WORLD COULD KNOW THAT PETER PARKER AND SPIDER-MAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
AND THEN WHAT?
IT'S LIKE I'M WALKING ON A ROTTED FLOOR THAT'S GIVING WAY WITH EACH STEP ANY SECOND NOW. THE WHOLE THING IS GOING TO COLLAPSE


BEST I CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT HARRY'S ENJOYING TOYING WITH ME THE WAY HE DID TONIGHT. "PETER, PETER, PUMKIN EATER."
REAL CUTE, HAR.
BUT WHILE HE'S BUSY PLAYING HIS LITTLE MIND-GAMES... TRYING TO KEEP ME OFF-BALANCE, WONDERING WHEN HE'LL REVEAL MY SECRET--

-- I CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN.
PROBLEM IS, I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE HOW I'M GONNA GET OUT OF THIS. NO CONVENIENT AMNESIA TO WIPE OUT HARRY'S MEMORY THIS TIME.
NO DEUS EX MACHINA TO SAVE MY HIDE.


I'M IN IT DEEP AND--HEAVEN HELP ME--I CAN'T SEE MY WAY--


UH-OH
SPIDER-SENSE KICKING IN.. HARD.
FIGURES. DESERTED STREET, MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT GOTTA BE SOME SLEAZOID--
--MUGGER?!
OH, NO.
THE RHINO?!
WHAT'S THE RHINO DOING HERE--AND WHY IS HE ATTACKING PETER PARKER?!
IT'S GOTTA BE HARRY'S DOING--OR MAYBE THE VULTURE'S!
IT MIGHT EVEN BE RICHARD FISK AGAIN, TRYING TO--
WELL, WHOEVER SENT HIM, NO WAY HE'S GONNA NAIL A GUY WITH MY REFLEXES AND AGILITY!

TERRIFIC -- I DID JUST THE WRONG THING.
RHINO SEES ME MOVE LIKE THAT AGAIN --
-- AND I WON'T NEED HARRY TO BLOW MY SECRET!
BEST BET IS TO LET HIM THINK I'M PANICKED --
THWAK!
KRA
MM!
-- TAKE THE HIT AND ROLL WITH IT --
-- AND THEN WAIT AND SEE WHAT HE DOES NEXT.
IT'S NOT EASY PLAYING THE HELPLESS VICTIM -- BUT, UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE WHAT HE'S UP TO --
-- I'VE GOTTA DO THE ACTING JOB OF MY LIFE.
DON'T HURT ME... PLEASE! IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT, I'LL --
SHUT UP, PARKER!
YOU -- KNOW MY NAME?

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, PARKER.
ALL YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS.
AND SOON--
--EVERYONE'S GONNA KNOW
SECRETS? WHAT... WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT KIND OF--
DON'T TRY T'PLAY DUMB WITH ME! YOU THINK I'M SOME KIND OF IDIOT?!
KRU
NNK
YOUR SECRET'S OUT, PUNK!
THE GAME'S OVER!
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA BE SAFE AGAIN!
YOU HEAR ME, PARKER?!
YOU HEAR ME?!
HE HEARS YOU.
THWIP
NO.

YOU'VE GOT LOUSY TIMING, RHINO!
WITH ALL THE COSTUMED LUNATICS INVADING MY LIFE LATELY--
-- I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ALL I CAN TAKE!
SHRA
AND I AM NOT GONNA TAKE ANY MORE!!
KOOM!

NO MORE!
NOT FROM YOU!
KTHAM!
NOT FROM THE GOBLIN!
KRAKOW!
CHUKK
NOT FROM ANYONE!
I'M TIRED OF BEING TOYED WITH AND MANIPULATED!
I'M TIRED OF OSBORN'S THREATS HANGING OVER MY HEAD!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

I've just been looking over a list of the new projects, titles, team-ups and series that our indefatigable editor-in-chief, Titanic Tom DeFalco, and his sagacious staff of editorpersons have been cooking up for you in their colorful little inglenooks here in the hallowed halls of Marvel.

Now this isn't gonna be a high-pressure, hard-sell puff piece describing all our fantastic new feature ideas; you'll be able to learn about them in the forthcoming WAM bulletins, as well as in future issues of MARVEL AGE and our usual batch of scintillating, self-laudatory ads and announcements in the months to come.

Instead, in these few paragraphs, which are among the most widely read in all of comicdom, I want to once again express my boundless admiration — and the admiration of Marvel fans everywhere — for the brilliant creative output of the most hardworking staff in comics.

Just think about it. Virtually every issue that Tom's loyal legions produces is tantamount to a full-length feature film in plot, complexity and characterization. But, whereas the average movie takes at least a year (and usually much longer) from inception to completion, our celebrated sagas are produced at the unbelievable rate of a new one each and every month! And hey, we're not talking just **one** movie-length masterpiece each month, but nearly a **hundred** separate superhero titles within each thirty-day period! It doth fairly boggle the mind!

That's the reason for this heartfelt though woefully inadequate tribute to Marvel's creative geniuses wherever they may be. It's not because they're unappreciated; they've won every award in the book! It's not because they twisted my arm; they have no idea I'm writing this! It's not because I have to; I can use this space to spout off about any subject under the sun! And it's not because I've never mentioned it before—I've extolled their brilliance many times over the past years.

No, the only reason I just had to write this column is because I admire and respect each and every one of these gifted Marvel madmen whose awesome creative output brings such reading pleasure to countless fans around the world. Although, "admire and respect" doesn't nearly say enough — I just plain love 'em all, and I've got a hunch that you do, too!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

There was all sorts of *may*hem around the Bullpen this month as the whole Marvel gang was featured on MTV. The excitement started when MTV veejay **Karyn Bryant** showed up with a camera crew to tape some spots around the Bullpen. The spots aired one day in February, somewhere between "Club MTV" and "Yo, MTV Raps!" and featured such stalwarts as **Bob Harras**, **Mark Gruenwald**, and **Dave** (the Lettering Guy) **Sharpe**! Will this lead to future Marvel/MTV collaborations — "Club NFL Superpro," or "Yo, Darkhawk Raps!"? Guess we'll just have to let the chips fall where they *may*.

One guy who was hollering "*may*day" around the halls of Marvel was Epic Executive Editor **Carl Potts**, who recently launched a new epic with the birth of his son **Justin Carl** in January. Because Carl's baby was born under the Epic imprint, this means Carl and his wife **Cathy** retain complete ownership of the baby if it goes on to become a successful comic book series! (Contrary to rumor, Carl's baby wasn't born in the *Mayo* Clinic!)

One guy who didn't exactly come over on the *May*flower is **Len Kaminski**, who recently left staff to become regular scripter on IRON MAN, the all-new MORBIUS THE LIVING VAMPIRE series, and the long-awaited SLAPSTICK limited series. We've been promising SLAPSTICK for quite a while now, but this year, we'll get it out, come what *may*.

Taking Len's place as **Ralph Macchio**'s assistant is **Pat Garrahy**, who *may* or *may* not run for *may*or some day. Replacing Pat as **Glenn Herdling**'s assistant is **Mike Lackey**, the writer of the smash hit WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING comic, who told us he no longer wants to be hit over the head with a steel chair by the WCW champ. Mike's new ambition in life is to actually be the one who gets to hit the champ over the head with the steel chair. WCW editor **Mike Rockwitz** said if Lackey keeps this up, he will personally whack Lackey over the head with a word processor, or desk, or whatever's handy.

That Mike Lackey *may* be wacky — but there were plenty of lunatics to be found at the annual Toy Fair which was held in New York the second week in February. There were tons and tons o' new toys on display — this being the event where toy manufacturers run their new product lines up the *may*pole to see who salutes. The highlight of the toy fair for us, of course, was the party held one night for the Marvel elite to hobnob with retailers and manufacturers in the toy industry.

Terry Stewart and **Stan Lee** — no *may*-flies on these guys — were there to officially inaugurate the 30th anniversary celebration of **Spider-Man**. Spidey himself showed up to blow out the candles. A few of Spidey's friends and foes showed up, as well — among them, **Captain America**, **Iron Man**, **Doctor Doom**, and the **Green Goblin**. Some guys will do anything for a free meal!

Executives from Carolco Pictures were also present — that's the studio that's currently set to produce the **Spider-Man** live-action motion picture — but sadly, Spidey director **James Cameron** was unable to attend. Be that as it *may*, a splendid time was had by all.

The centerpiece of the Marvel party was The Danger Room, which was a special trap-filled room that had been set up to snare unsuspecting party-goers. The room was filled with smoke, and you all know how dangerous smoke is! You could *choke* on it! An overweight **Professor X** on a viewscreen guided victims through the room, which offered opportunities to play the Spidey and Captain America arcade video games absolutely free! Talk about danger — patrons could have been trampled by overeager video enthusiasts. Thankfully, this did not occur. Other hazards: The Danger Room was very dark — people could have tripped and bumped their heads! Ninety percent of all Danger Room head injuries are caused by poor lighting! The showstopper was a ten-foot robot which stalked like a **Sentinel** with a few chips short of a full memory. Truly, all who entered were lucky to have made it out alive. After a harrowing experience like that, we all could have used a vacation down in Cape *May*!

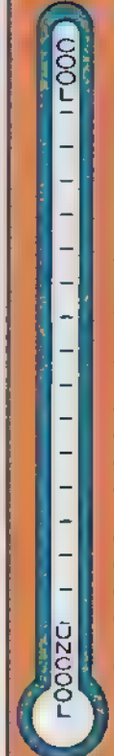
Well, it looks like we *may* be out of room for this month. Or we *may* not. We *may* never know.

Next month: JUNE!

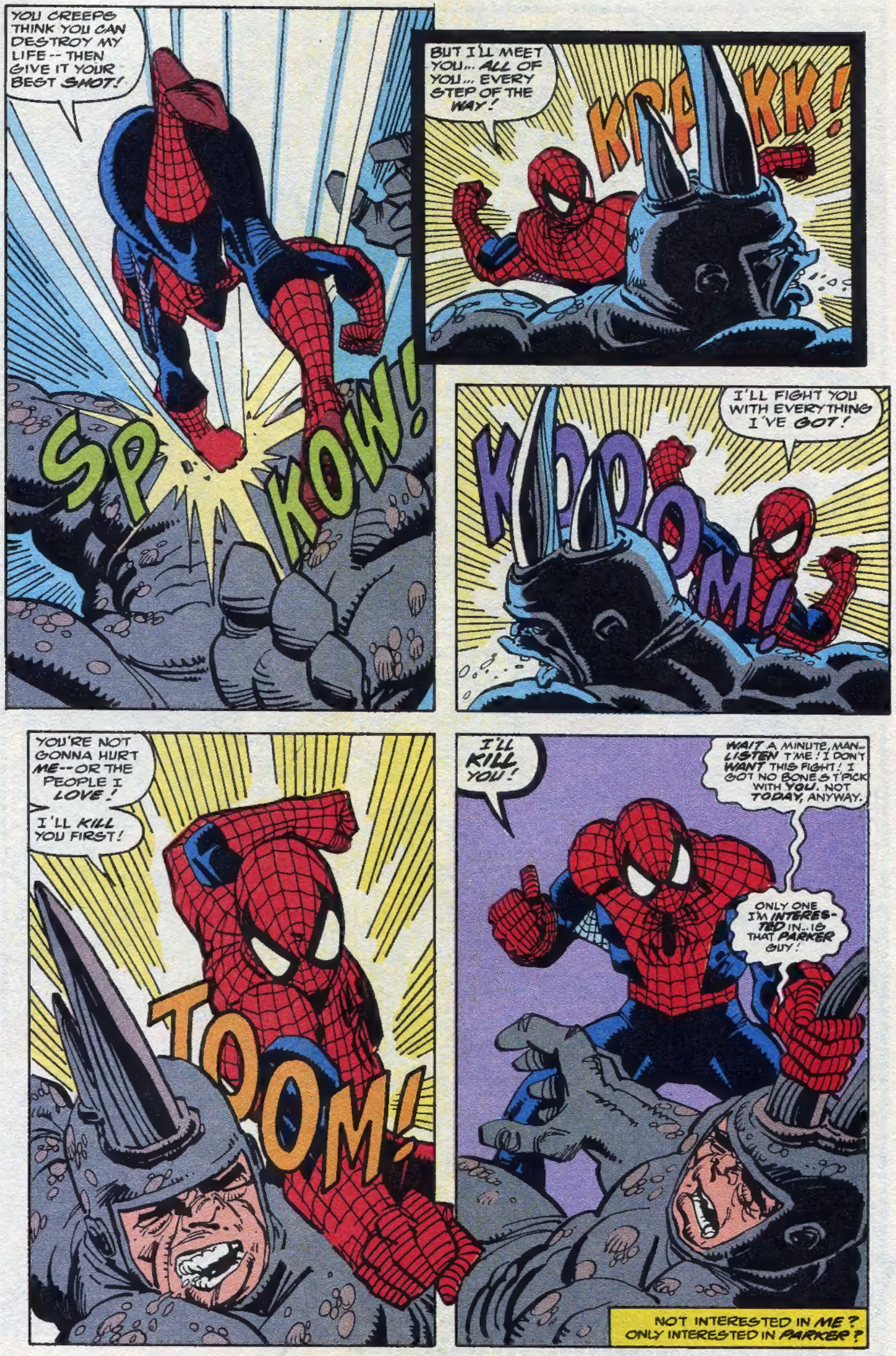
COUNTDOWN TO *SPIDER-MAN: THE MOTION PICTURE:* 755 days and counting

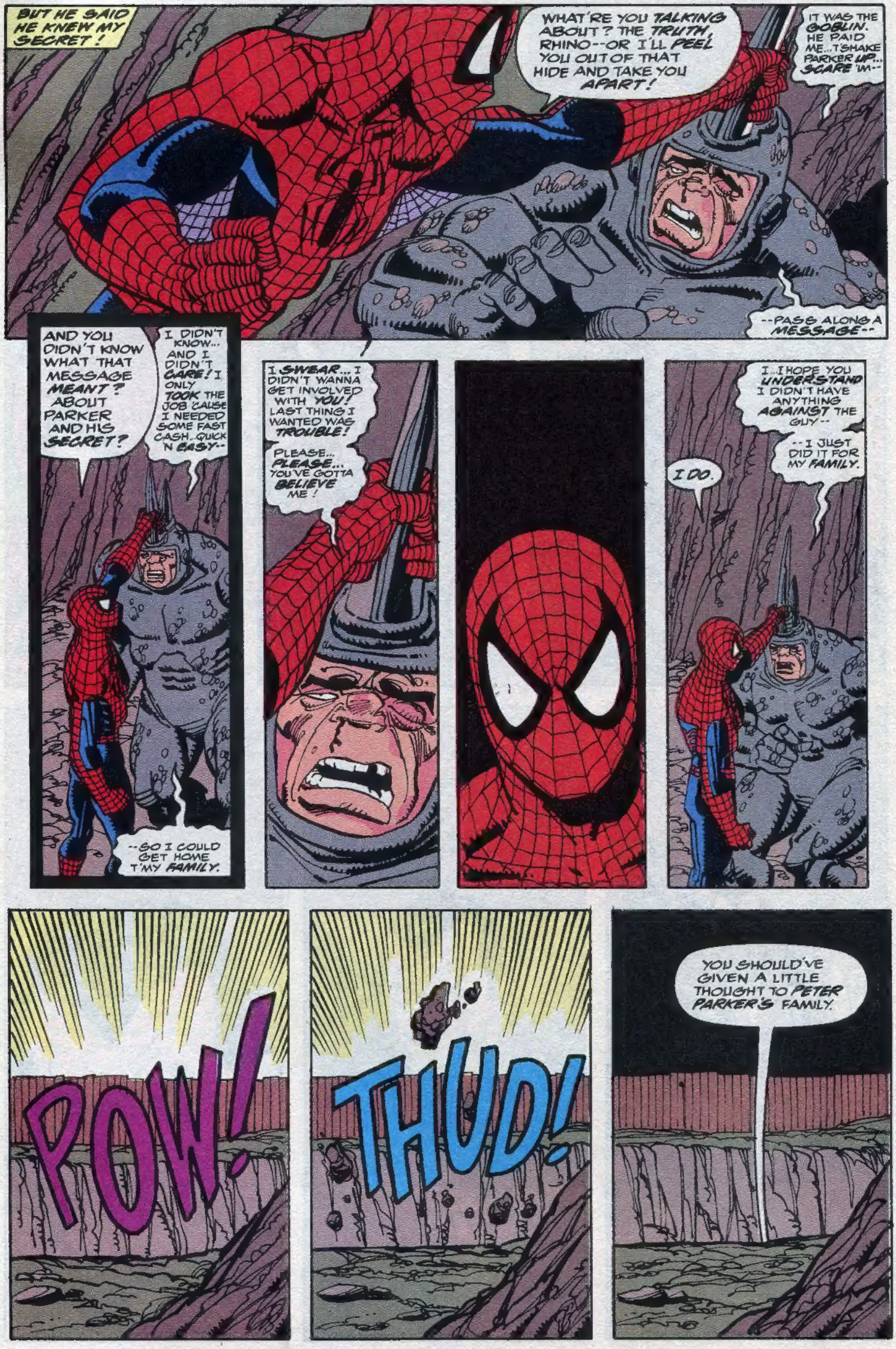
MAY COOLOMETER

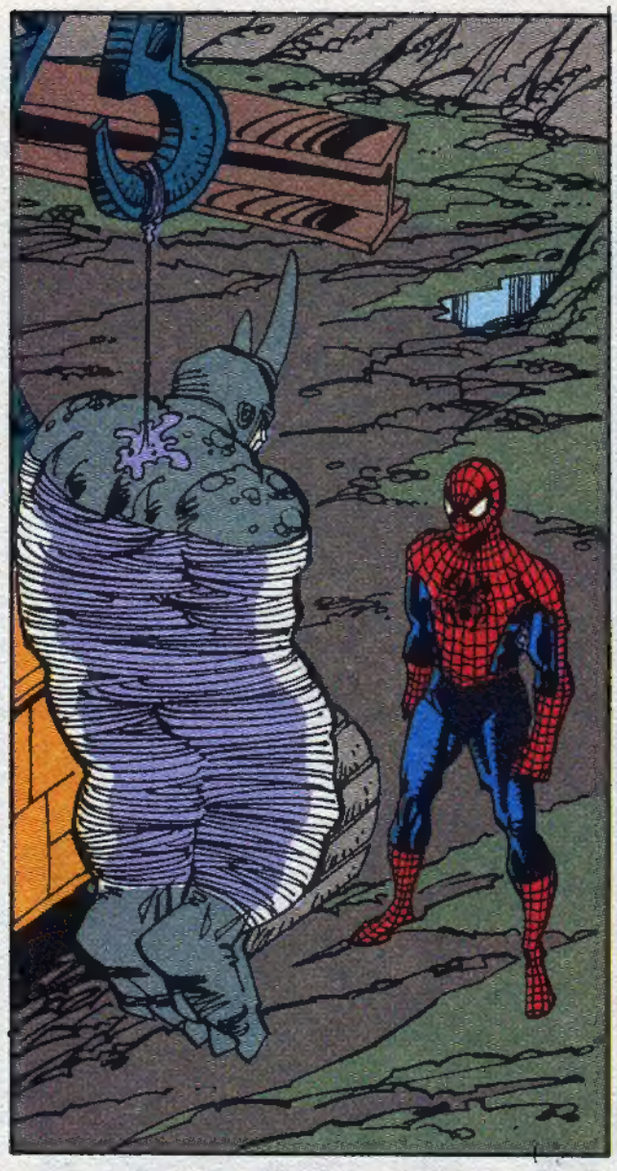
HERE'S WHAT THE BULLPEN WAS BUZZING ABOUT IN FEBRUARY

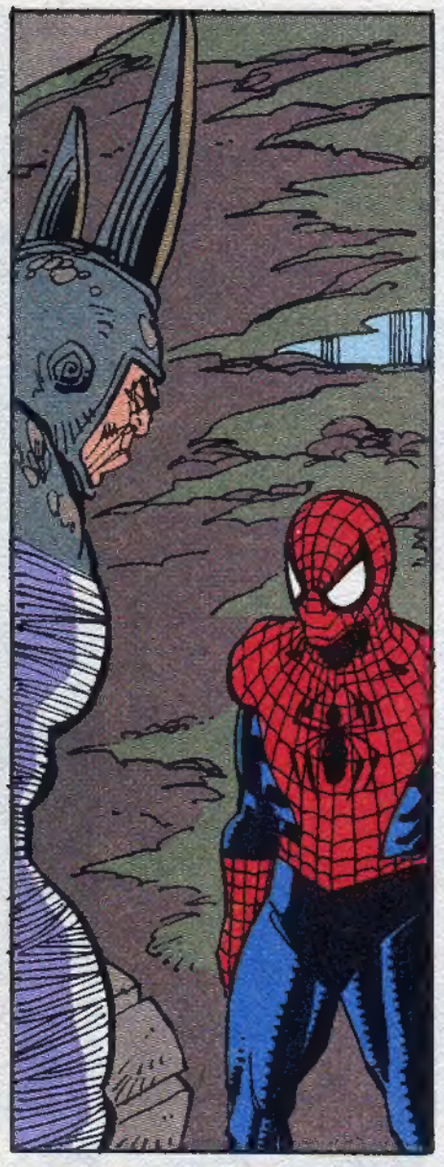


- RALPHING
- CHARGE-PARITY VIOLATION
- THE NEW COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
- PARADIGM SHIFT
- SPIN DOCTORS
- DEMYSTIFICATION
- TECH NOIR
- CHARACTER GENERATORS
- INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY
- MYSTERY WINDS
- PAIR-BONDING
- FLORABUNDANCE
- US/JAPAN TRADE RELATIONS
- COUCH COWBOYS
- IDENTITY POLITICS
- PERCEIVED VALUE
- IMPERSONAL COMPUTERS
- NOT

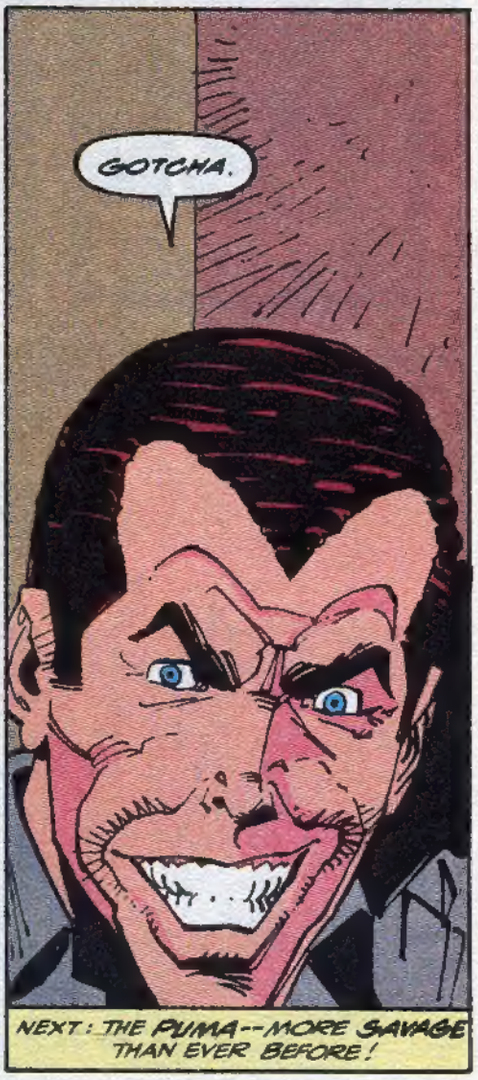

YOU CREEPS THINK YOU CAN DESTROY MY LIFE -- THEN GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT!
SP
KOW!
BUT I'LL MEET YOU... ALL OF YOU... EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
KRA
KK!
I'LL FIGHT YOU WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
KRROOM!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA HURT ME--OR THE PEOPLE I LOVE!
I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!
TOOM!
I'LL KILL YOU!
WAIT A MINUTE, MAN-- LISTEN T'ME! I DON'T WANT THIS FIGHT! I GOT NO BONES T'PICK WITH YOU. NOT TODAY, ANYWAY.
ONLY ONE I'M INTERESTED IN...IS THAT PARKER GUY!
NOT INTERESTED IN ME? ONLY INTERESTED IN PARKER?


BUT HE SAID HE KNEW MY SECRET!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE TRUTH, RHINO--OR I'LL PEEL YOU OUT OF THAT HIDE AND TAKE YOU APART!
IT WAS THE GOBLIN. HE PAID ME...T'SHAKE PARKER UP... SCARE 'IM--
--PASS ALONG A MESSAGE--
AND YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT MESSAGE MEANT? ABOUT PARKER AND HIS SECRET?
I DIDN'T KNOW... AND I DIDN'T CARE! I ONLY TOOK THE JOB 'CAUSE I NEEDED SOME FAST CASH..QUICK N EASY--
--SO I COULD GET HOME T'MY FAMILY.
I SWEAR... I DIDN'T WANNA GET INVOLVED WITH YOU! LAST THING I WANTED WAS TROUBLE!
PLEASE... PLEASE... YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE ME!
I...I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST THE GUY--
--I JUST DID IT FOR MY FAMILY.
I DO.
POW!
THUD!
YOU SHOULD'VE GIVEN A LITTLE THOUGHT TO PETER PARKER'S FAMILY.





HARRY.


GOTCHA.
NEXT: THE PUMA--MORE SAVAGE THAN EVER BEFORE!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
ERIC FEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Spectacular Spider People,

I couldn't sleep, so I felt that I should write to you about SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #182. It was awesome! No sooner does Dr. Kafka discover that Vermin is in Scarsdale and tells the webhead to hurry on over, then Spider-Man is already on the scene.

I really hate the fact that you had Harry Osborn return to being the Green Goblin for an evil purpose instead of a good purpose. J.M. DeMatteis is doing one heck of a terrific job writing this story. I would also like to see Danny Fingeroth write some more Spider-Man stories, because he did a great job on the DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN series.

"Toothpick"
18128 Gunpowder Rd.
Hampstead, MD 21074-2912

There's a lot more to Harry than meets the eye, Toothpick. Keep reading and you'll see. And look for more DEADLY FOES in your future. And get some sleep!

Dear Spider-Men,

I have been collecting WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN for about 4 months now and must say that Spider-Man is the best comic character ever.

I am sorry to inform you, though, that I have caught an obvious mistake in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #182, but I intend to explain why this was not a mistake. On the last page of issue #181, a drugged and unmasked Spidey crashes through Dr. Kafka's window. But in issue #182, Spidey comes out from under the drug's influence wearing his mask. Why wouldn't Dr. Kafka know Spidey's true identity?

While Spidey was still doped up, he realized the doctor was in the room and he put on his mask before she could see his face. While he was unconscious, she left his mask alone. Do I get a No-Prize? Please say yes!

Until the Scorpion becomes Spidey's best friend, Make Mine Marvel!

Brandon League
928 Rome St.
Carrollton, GA 30117

Very observant, Brandon! Both you and fellow reader P. Meaney caught and tried to explain what you thought was a mistake — unfortunately, it *wasn't* a mistake! In issue #184, page 17, Dr. Kafka explains that *she* was the one who replaced ol' Web-Head's mask! And she didn't peek!

Dear Danny,

"The Child Within" has been one of the best, but also one of the weirdest Spidey tales I've read in years! J.M. DeMatteis has done his usual fabulous job of writing and good old Sal Buscema's art was stunning. His panels are full of incredible detail and sometimes Spidey just seems to jump out of the book!

When I read issue #178, I was wondering about the title of this six-parter. The child within who? Now, after reading issue #183, I guess it was the child within Peter, Harry and Vermin! They all had to deal with a personal dilemma.

Peter struggled with feeling guilty for his parents' deaths. He always takes the blame for everything, but feeling guilty for the death of his parents...? I'm glad Peter finally reconciled himself to the truth, and I found the scene on pages 30 and 31 very touching. "The Child Within" has provided a great deal of characterization. Maybe now Peter'll stop feeling responsible for every little thing (but then again, that's like asking when Peter and MJ will have a baby).

"The Child Within" was nicely paced and well-written. I think this will be viewed as one of the best Spider-Man tales of the nineties.

Well, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN has become one of my favorite titles again, so until Spidey marries the Black Cat, Make Mine Marvel!

Marc C.P. deWit
Wittevrouwensingel 15
2156 GP Utrecht
The Netherlands

A thoughtful letter, Marc. Thanks for the kind words!

Dear Danny,

And so ends the most spectacular Spider-Man story since Peter David's classic, "The Death of Jean DeWolff." J.M. DeMatteis has recreated *the* classic Spider-Man villain, the Green Goblin, making him a creature of terror once more without removing that essential irony that he is also Peter Parker's best friend.

This storyline has been a joy from start to finish. Please keep hold of J.M. I'm sorry to see that he's already left MOON KNIGHT; don't let him leave Spidey. DeMatteis and Buscema are the Spider-team supreme for 1992. Thank them for what they've done for my hero. Spidey will always be the best!

In closing, I hope to see the letters page reinstated soon, as I'm dying to read the reactions of other fans to this series. Also, when will see the promised DeMatteis/Zeck sequel to the Kraven Saga?

Rol Hirst
Rushgrove Farm
Holt Head, Slaithwaite
Huddersfield, W. York
England HD7 5TY

Here are your fellow readers' reactions, Rol! As you can see, they are overwhelmingly positive!

You'll be happy to know that "Soul of the Hunter," the DeMatteis/Zeck/McLeod sequel to the Kraven Saga is coming to you this summer. We're sure you'll enjoy this 48 page bookshelf. Don't miss it!

Dear Mr. DeMatteis,

I fully enjoyed every minute of "The Child Within." I was shocked and elated at the return of the Green goblin. His re-emergence was a stroke of brilliance. The aftermath issue settled a lot of questions: What about Liz and little Norman? What role would the Molten Man take in this situation? What were Mary Jane's thoughts? How was the news going to be broken to Liz?

All those questions were answered fairly well. And Spider-Man's exchange with Dr. Kafka was an interesting look at what Harry must also be feeling. Vermin and Harry were always well paralleled throughout the story.

Please wait a dozen or so issues before bringing old G.G. back. Maybe issue #200.

Jeff Haardt
8044 Felicity Ct.
Springfield, VA 22153

Issue #200? Hmmm... We'll think about it, Jeff! Hope you don't mind that Harry showed up last issue and this.

Dear Danny,

I have been following "The Child Within" since its very start, and truly believe it to be one of the finest stories in Spider-Man's history, right up there with "Kraven's Last Hunt." J.M. DeMatteis's scripts are excellent; moody and psychologically troubling. We must feel sorry for Harry Osborn, a man calling for help and trying to exorcise his past. The Osborn sub-plot really stole the show from Vermin. The only fault I found with SPECTACULAR #184 is that we were left dangling. I would have liked to see the resolution of Harry's problems. But hey, we've got a humor issue coming up! Great!

Sal Buscema is great, too. I didn't enjoy his Spidey work at first, but now I hail it as one of the best renditions of the web-slinger in ages. (How's *that* for a change of opinion?) Sal's faces just have that certain style.

Just one more thing — When will we see the sequel to "Kraven" by J.M., Mike Zeck, and Bob Mcleod? If it's half as good as the first, it'll be great!

Mr. Joey Marchese
116 Emerald Pl.
Clark, NJ 07066

Yet another request for the Kraven sequel! Well, Joey, the news in this letters page must have made you smile! And as far as resolving Harry's problems...unfortunately, problems like Harry's don't *get* solved so easily. And besides, if they were, what fun would he be to read about?

NEXT: "Eye of the Puma," part 1. J.M. and Sal doing what they do best. *Don't* miss it.

(And before that, make sure you check out AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #365. It's the ultimate Spidey 30th Anniversary celebration. Along with SPEC #189, WEB #90 and adjectiveless SPIDER-MAN#26, it's our tribute to Spidey — and to you loyal folks who have kept him on top.)